

REMARKS

In the Action, claims 1-4, 6, 8-10 and 12-15 are rejected. In response, claims 1 and 10 are amended to recite driving the zoom lens set to the wide angle mode by adjusting the focal distance of the zoom lens according to the calculated difference between the zoom lens and an object based on a preset distance, and compensating for the focal distance of the zoom lens according to the calculated difference. These amendments are made to clarify the features of the invention and do not introduce new issues.

In view of these amendments and the following comments, reconsideration and allowance are requested.

Rejection of Claims 1, 2, 6 and 8

Claims 1, 2, 6 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0135677 to Noro et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,164,438 to Kindaichi, U.S. Patent No. 5,570,235 to Yoneyama, and U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0040638 to Yoshikawa et al.

The claimed invention is directed to a method of setting a web camera mode when the power switch is turned on and the portable composite device is connected to the personal computer, where the composite device can be set to either a mass storage mode or the web camera mode and when set to the web camera mode, the lens is set to the wide angle mode. Thus, the invention is directed to a method of setting the lens to the wide angle mode in response to (1) the web camera mode setting, (2) the power switch being turned on, and (3) the device being connected to the personal computer. The claims are not directed simply to turning on the power switch.

Noro et al. only discloses setting the wide angle mode if the power switch is turned on. Accordingly, the present invention is distinguishable from Noro et al.

The preset value of Yoshikawa et al. relates to the “driving velocity” and the “driving direction”. The values differ from the “preset distance” of the claimed invention. Accordingly, in the present invention, the “calculated distance difference” is used to adjust the focal distance of the zoom lens. In Yoshikawa et al., the “value” is obtained by multiplying the preset value calculated by the prior value before the change is used to adjust the focal distance of the zoom lens.

Noro et al. is cited for disclosing a method of setting a web camera mode for a portable device. Noro et al. does not disclose the combination of the claimed method step of setting a portable composite device in a web camera mode, determining whether the web camera mode is set in the web camera mode and whether the personal computer is connected to the interface of the device as a web camera and setting the zoom lens to a wide angle mode on the basis of a preset value or distance as in the claimed invention. The Action refers generally to paragraph 0072 of Noro et al. for allegedly disclosing setting the zoom lens to a wide angle mode. This passage refers only to the manually operated buttons for adjusting the camera. There is no suggestion of a preset wide angle mode as in the claimed invention.

The pan buttons 62 and 64 and the home button 70 referred to in the Action are manually operated buttons for instructing the pan direction of the camera. Thus, the pan buttons 62 and 64 referred to in the Action are manually operated buttons to adjust the horizontal pan direction of the camera. The home button 70 returns the camera to a predetermined front position. There is no suggestion of the buttons setting the zoom lens in a wide angle mode based on a preset value in combination with the step of determining whether the camera is connected to a personal computer.

Noro et al. provides for the user to manually control the camera using a personal computer and adjust the focal distance based on a zoom speed. Noro et al. does not disclose the step of setting the portable composite device in a web camera mode and determining whether the web camera mode is set and whether the personal computer is connected to the composite device as in claim 1.

Kindaichi is cited as allegedly disclosing a portable composite device and setting the wide angle lens to a preset value. Initially, it is noted that Kindaichi does not refer to a composite device having a web camera mode or a composite device for connecting to a personal computer and determining whether the composite device is in the web camera mode and whether the portable composite device is connected to the personal computer. Therefore, Kindaichi has no relation to Noro et al. over the claimed invention.

Furthermore, the Action refers to column 6, lines 1-18 of Kindaichi as allegedly disclosing the step of setting a zoom lens to a wide angle mode at a preset value. This passage does not disclose the claimed step of setting a zoom lens to a wide angle mode without requiring a user's additional command on the basis of a preset value when the composite device is set in a web camera mode and is connected to a personal computer. The passage referred to in the Action discloses a release switch, a power switch and a zoom switch for manually operating the lens. As disclosed in column 6, lines 4-9 of Kindaichi, when the power switch is turned on, the control unit moves the lens of the optical system from a retracted position to a wide angle position. There is no suggestion in Kindaichi of adjusting the lens to a wide angle position when a web camera mode is selected. Therefore, even if one were to combine the teachings of Kindaichi with Noro et al., the result would not be the claimed invention. The resulting combination would not drive a zoom lens to a wide

angle mode based on a preset value when the web camera mode is selected and the composite device is connected to a personal computer.

Yoneyama is cited for disclosing setting a zoom lens to a wide angle mode by adjusting a focal distance of the zoom lens. The Action refers generally to column 5, lines 60-67 of Yoneyama. This passage refers only to the back focal distance of a zoom lens as an optimum value. There is no suggestion in this passage of driving the zoom lens in a wide angle mode by adjusting the focal distance of the zoom lens as in the claimed invention. Furthermore, as noted above, Kindaichi adjusts the lens when the power is supplied. Therefore, it would not have been obvious to modify the apparatus of Kindaichi or Noro et al. based on the back focal distance referred to in Yoneyama.

Yoshikawa et al. is cited as allegedly disclosing the step of setting the focal distance by calculating the difference between the zoom lens and an object based on a preset value. Yoshikawa et al. refers generally to a preset drive control operation. However, Yoshikawa et al. provides no suggestion to modify the zoom lens of Yoneyama or Kindaichi to calculate a distance difference between the zoom lens and an object based on a preset distance, and to replace the manually operated buttons of Noro et al.

In view of the above comments, claim 1 is not obvious over the combination of Noro et al., Kindaichi, Yoshikawa et al., and Yoneyama. Claims 2, 6 and 8 are also allowable as depending from claim 1 and for reciting additional features of the invention that are not disclosed or suggested in the cited patents. For example, the cited patents do not disclose the step of providing an image signal corresponding to an image required by the zoom lens set to the wide angle mode as in claim 2, setting the focal distance of the zoom lens to a specified distance as in claim 6, or releasing the

setting of the wide angle mode when the personal computer is disconnected from the interface as in claim 8, either alone or in combination with the method steps of claim 1.

Claims 3 and 4 are rejected as being obvious over Noro et al. in view of Kindaichi, Yoneyama, and Yoshikawa et al., and further in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0112342 to Takeuchi. Takeuchi is cited for disclosing a step of setting a zoom lens to a wide angle mode based on a color temperature of the image.

Takeuchi is unrelated to a portable composite device operated in a web camera mode which can be connected to a personal computer. Thus, Takeuchi provides no motivation or suggestion to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the wide angle lens of Noro et al., and setting the color temperature of the image signal to a specified color temperature. Takeuchi relates to a processing system to provide pickup images by arranging signals where a white balance is performed. The device is Takeuchi includes a calculating device to calculate the control values as preset white control values. The white control values are obtained by a reference digital camera with light sources having different color temperatures.

Takeuchi provides no suggestion of setting a camera to a web camera mode or setting a zoom lens to a wide angle mode based on a web camera mode setting and setting a color temperature of the image signal in a web camera mode. The passages referred to in the Action do not disclose or suggest this feature.

Takeuchi further fails to disclose setting a color temperature by calculating a color temperature difference between a preset color temperature and a color temperature of the image signal, and compensating for the preset color temperature for a camera lens set to a wide angle mode when set in a web camera mode. Takeuchi does not disclose setting a lens to a wide angle mode based on the color temperature.

Accordingly, claims 3 and 4 are not obvious over the combination of Noro et al., Kindaichi, Yoneyama, Yoshikawa et al. and Takeuchi.

Claim 9 is rejected as being obvious over Noro et al. in view of Kindaichi, Yoneyama, Yoshikawa et al., and further in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0017653 to Hata. Hata is cited for disclosing a step of determining whether a video camera is used in a mass storage mode.

Hata refers to a digital video camera that is able to function as an internet server. The internet server determines whether a request for transmitting the moving storage data has been made from a personal computer. Hata is unrelated to a composite device that can be set to a web camera mode and connected to a personal computer.

One skilled in the art would not be motivated to modify the prior devices to includes a step of determining whether a portable composite device is used in a mass storage mode and transmitting video and audio data stored in the portable composite device to the personal computer. Even if one were to modify Noro et al. according to Hata, the result would not be the claimed invention. Accordingly, claim 9 is not obvious over the combination of Noro et al., Kindaichi, Yoneyama, Yoshikawa et al. and Hata.

Claims 10, 14 and 15 are rejected as being obvious over Hata in view of Kindaichi, and further in view of Yoneyama and Yoshikawa et al. Hata is cited for disclosing a portable device having a control unit and a switching unit for switching and transmitting data stored in a storage medium or digital data corresponding to an electrical signal.

Hata does not disclose or suggest a control unit for setting a position of a zoom lens to a wide angle mode to a preset distance from an object in response to an

external control signal from a personal computer and in response to setting a web camera mode of the portable composite device. The Action contends that Kindaichi discloses a portable composite device setting a zoom lens to a wide angle mode without requiring a user's additional command on the basis of a preset value when the device is set in a web camera mode. The Action refers to column 6, lines 1-18 of Kindaichi. This passage provides no suggestion of a web camera mode as asserted in the Action.

Furthermore, this passage of Kindaichi clearly fails to disclose setting a lens in a wide angle position in response to a setting of a web camera mode or setting the lens to a preset value. Kindaichi only discloses a power switch which moves the lens from a retracted position to a forward wide angle position when the power supply is activated. This has no relation to the claimed invention. There is no suggestion of setting the lens to the wide angle mode when the power switch is turned on and the camera is connected to a personal computer. Therefore, even if one were to modify Hata according to Kindaichi as suggested in the Action, the resulting apparatus would not be a control unit for setting a zoom lens in a wide angle position in response to a web camera mode being set by the device and a personal computer and without requiring a user's additional command.

The Action refers to Yoneyama as disclosing the step of setting a zoom lens to a wide angle mode by adjusting the focal distance. Yoshikawa et al. is cited for disclosing a control unit for setting a position of a zoom lens in response to a preset value.

For the reasons discussed above, Yoneyama and Yoshikawa et al. do not disclose or suggest setting a zoom lens in a wide angle mode by driving a zoom lens to the wide angle mode by adjusting a focal distance of the zoom lens or calculating

the distance between the zoom lens and an object based on the preset distance determined by the setting of the web camera mode. Accordingly, claim 10 is not obvious over the combination of Hata, Kindaichi, Yoneyama and Yoshikawa et al.

The combination of the cited patents further fails to disclose a switching unit to output digital data stored in a storage medium when a mode control signal is in a first logic level and outputting digital data corresponding to an electric signal to a serial port through a serial interface when the mode control signal is in a second logic level as in claim 14 or the storage medium being a hard disk drive as in claim 15, in combination with the features of claim 10.

Claims 12 and 13 are rejected as being obvious over Hata in view of Kindaichi, Yoneyama, Yoshikawa et al., and further in view of Takeuchi. Takeuchi is cited for disclosing a camera operating according to a selected color temperature value.

As discussed above, Takeuchi has no relation to operating a composite device in a web camera mode when the composite device is connected to the personal computer. Thus, Takeuchi provides no suggestion of modifying the apparatus of Hata, Kindaichi, Yoneyama or Yoshikawa et al. to provide a control unit for modifying the digital data corresponding to the electrical signal to have a preset color temperature value in response to an external control as in claim 12, or the color temperature value being at or about 4500°K as in claim 13. Accordingly, claims 12 and 13 are not obvious over the combination of the cited patents.

In view of these amendments and the above comments, reconsideration and allowance are requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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